Promotion in the Army by giving extension in service

1586. SHRI VEDPRAKASH P. GOYAL: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Major General was promoted to Lt. General by giving extension in service at the point of retirement;

(b) whether this action was against the recommendations of the Headquarters who had turned down his request for extension and promotion;

(c) whether this action blocks the promotion of deserving officers;

(d) what circumstances led to the interference in well established procedure of promotions; and

(e) whether this favouritism has not created unrest among army officers as appeared in the Pioneer, New Delhi dated the 4th March, 1997?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N. V. N. SOMU): (a) to (e) The Major General who was granted short extension of three months is an 1962 batch General Cadre Offficer. On a statutory complaint submitted by the officer, the Government, after due consideration, found that some gradings and remarks in one of the officer's reports were inconsistent with the overall profile of the officer. As such he was granted redressal by way of expunction of these gradings/remarks by the competent authority.

As per extant provisions, the officer, thereafter, became eligible to be considered again by the Selection Board as a Special Review (Fresh) case. He was accordingly considered along with some other officers by the Special Selection Board held on 31st October 1996. The Board recommended that he be graded 'unfit'. The gradings awarded by the special Selection Board, as endorsed by the COAS, were examined in the Ministry and it was considered that after granting of redressal, the overall record profile of the officer was comparable with those of his batch who were promoted. As such, the officer was finally graded as 'fit' by the competent authority.

In view of the time taken in deciding the matter of Statutory Complaint and the Board proceedings, it was ordered to grant a short extension in service to the officer by three months beyond his date of retimement on 30th November 1996, or till the declassification of result of the Special Selection Board held on 31st October 1996, whichever was earlier.

There was no interference in the well established procedure of promotion nor was there any favouritism in granting promotion to the officer.

भारतीय वायु सेना में ग्राउण्ड ड्यूटी/फ्लाइंग अधिकारियों की पदोन्नति के लिए नियम

1587. **श्री सूर्यभान पाटील वहाडणे:** क्या रक्षा मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या भारतीय वायुसेना में ग्राउण्ड ड्यूटी अधिकारियों और फ्लाइंग अधिकारियों की पदोन्नति के नियम एक समान हैं;

(ख) यदि हां, तो हाल ही में अधिकारियों को विंग कमांडर के पद पर पदोन्नति देते समय पदोन्नति बोर्ड ने समान योग्यता रखने के बावजूद प्रशासनिक शाखा के कम और हवाई उड़ान करने के कार्य में लगी शाखा के अधिक अधिकारियों की पदोन्नति क्यों की;

(ग) इस कदम से प्रशासनिक शाखा में व्याप्त रोष कम करने के लिए क्या कदम उठाये गये हैं;

(घ) क्या पुनरीक्षा करते समय वायुसेना में प्रशासनिक अधिकारियों के पदों को न्यूनतम आवश्यकता के स्तर पर पहुंचा दिया गया है; और

(ङ) यदि हां, तो इसके क्या कारण हैं?

रक्षा मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री एन० वी० एन० सोमू): (क) ग्राउण्ड ड्यूटी अफसरों और उड़ान शाखा अफसरों के लिए पदोन्नति के नियम समान नहीं हैं परन्तु मिलते-जुलते हैं और वायुसेना की भूमिका और जरूरतों पर आधारित हैं।

(ख) पदोन्नतियां प्रत्येक शाखा में किसी वर्ष विशेष में उपलब्ध रिक्तियों की संख्या पर निर्भर करती हैं और ये वायुसेना की भूमिका तथा अपेक्षाओं को ध्यान में

रखते हुए की जाती हैं। अगर किसी शाखा में रिक्तियां कम होती हैं तो पदोन्नतियां भी उसी हिसाब से होती हैं। रिक्तियों की संख्या हर वर्ष और हर शाखा में अलग-अलग होती हैं।

(ग) प्रशासनिक शाखा में पदोन्नति संबंधी नीति/उपलब्ध रिक्तियों की संख्या के संबंध में किसी तरह का असंतोष हमारी जानकारी में नहीं लाया गया है।

(घ) और (ङ) भारतीय वायुसेना की प्रशासनिक शाखा के लिए सरकार द्वारा प्राधिकृत स्थापना में कोई परिवर्तन नहीं किया गया है।

Major set back from resource crunch

1588. SHRI NARENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Chief of Army staff is apprehending major setback accruing from the resource crunch especially tardy progress in revenue works, modernisation requirements, capital works etc.; and

(b) if so, how this situation has developed and what remedial measures are bieng adopted so that defence forces are always prepared in all respects to defend the territorial integrity of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N. V. N. SOMU): (a) The Chief of Army staff has invited attention over the shortage of funds.

(b) The Government is committed to maintain adequate level of Defence preparedness to meet any threat to national security and territorial integrity. Allocation to Defence is made within the overall resource availability keeping in view requirements of national security and other sectors of economy.

Currently, a total of Rs. 32000 crores have been provided for the Defence Forces in BE 1997-98. Of this, Rs. 16537.05 crores has been allocated to Army for meeting its Revenue and Capital requiremnts. In addition, Rs. 3620 crores have also been provided for meeting the expected liability on account of 5th Pay Commission. Further, the Finance Minister in his Budget Speech has promised that any additional requiremnt of Defence for Capital expenditure will be adequately provided for during the course of the year.

Vacancies in the Ministry

1589. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to refer to Unstarred Question 2601 and 4156 given in the Rajya Sabha on 19th March, 1997 and 14th May, 1997 respectively, and state:

(a) what actions have been proposed by the various authorities for filling up of 30 vacancies in Group 'D' post in the reserved category of OBC and upto which specific date all selection formalities will be completed;

(b) whether it is also a fact that 9 candidates who were declared selected in Group 'D' post (Mazdoor) in January 1997 in Central Ordnance Depot, Shakurbasti, Delhi who were sponsored by the Employment Exchanges on genuine records are still awaiting for joining their duties after completing all selection formalities;

(c) if so, the names of those selected candidates who are allowed to join their duties; and

(d) the further action contemplated in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N. V. N. SOMU): (a) Out of the 30 posts intimated earlier, 4 posts have been filled. For two posts, the selection has been made and the pre-appointment formalities are being completed. For the remaining 24 posts, Employment Exchange is being pursued for sponsoring suitable candidates.

(b) to (d) The appointment letters have not been issued to the 9 candidates since the verification of character and antecedents is being completed as per Rules. Appointment letters will be issued to these 9 candidates as soon as the same is completed.